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Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIMA 06413 192041Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 DODE-00 ICA-11 EUR-12 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 /053 W
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P 192014Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1018

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 6413

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MORG XM PE
SUBJ: PERU'S MILITARY TRAINING

REF: STATE 166382

1. EMBASSY HAS NO RPT NO INFORMATION THAT PERU INTENDS TO ESTABLISH A NEW MILITARY SCHOOL. ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS ALONE MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR PERU TO CONTEMPLATE SUCH A PROGRAM IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE (PARA. 2, REFTEL).

2. THE ARMED FORCES OF PERU FOR SEVERAL YEARS HAVE TAKEN PART IN EXCHANGE PROGRAMS WITH OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES SUCH AS BRAZIL, ARGENTINA, URUGUAY, HONDURAS AND CHILE. FOR AUSTERITY REASONS PERU HAS HAD TO CUT BACK ON THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS IT SENDS TO THE US AND TO U.S. SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS AND ALSO TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF PERUVIAN MILITARY IN OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES. PPERUVIANS VIEW LATTER PROGRAMS AS COMPLEMENTARY AND NOT COMPETITIVE WITH U.S. SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS, OR TRAINING IN US.

3. AS A RESULT OF PERU'S LARGE ARMS PURCHASES FROM THE USSR, THE MAJOR NON-US TRAINING EFFORT OF THE PERUVIAN AIR FORCE AND ARMY HAS BEEN WITH THE SOVIET UNION. EMBASSY DOES NOT HAVE PRECISE INFORMATION ON THE NUMBER OF PERUVIANS TRAINED IN THE SOVIET UNION BUT ESTIMATES RANGE AS HIGH AS 3,000. EACH NEW ARMS
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ACQUISITION FROM THE USSR ALSO SEEMS TO HAVE BROUGHT A NEW GROUP OF SOVIET INSTRUCTORS TO PERU. SPECIFIC EXAMPLES ARE: 12-14 SOVIET ADVISORS/TECHNICIANS WITH THE AN-26 TRAINING PROGRAM AT LIMA'S JORGE CHAVEZ AIRPORT; 25-26 ADVISORS/TECHNICIANS WITH THE SU-22 TRAINING PROGRAM NEAR TALARA, AND ANOTHER 6 SOVIET ADVISORS WITH THE ARMY'S ACADEMIC CENTER AT CHORILLOS. SOVIET TRAINERS ARE ALSO REQUIRED FOR SOVIET TANKS (T-54/55) AND FOR MISSILES

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(SA-3, SA-7 AND POSSIBLY SA-6). LATEST DAO ESTIMATE OF SOVIET
ADVISORS/TECHNICIANS NOW IN PERU IS APPROXIMATELY 125.
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